AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2663
PATENT
Application # 09/473,953
Attorney Docket # 113523 (1014-086)

AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 13. (Canceled)

14.   (Currently Amended) A method for redirecting traffic in a SONET ring family comprising the steps of:

assigning a second protection SONET ring to a SONET ring family comprising a first protection SONET ring, the first protection SONET ring distinct from the second protection SONET ring and connected to a first optical transport system line, the second protection SONET ring connected to a second optical transport system line;

detecting a service alarm in at least one ring of the SONET ring family;

and

directing traffic from the at least one ring in which a service alarm is detected onto the first protection SONET ring or the second protection SONET ring-; and

The method according to claim 1, further comprising determining whether the the second protection SONET ring is in use.

15.   (Currently Amended) A method for redirecting traffic in a SONET ring family comprising the steps of:

assigning a second protection SONET ring to a SONET ring family comprising a first protection SONET ring, the first protection SONET ring distinct from the second protection SONET ring and connected to a first optical transport system line, the second protection SONET ring connected to a second optical transport system line;

detecting a service alarm in at least one ring of the SONET ring family;

~~and~~

directing traffic from the at least one ring in which a service alarm is detected onto the first protection SONET ring or the second protection SONET ring~~-~~; and

~~The method according to claim 1, further comprising~~ marking the protection ring as being in use if no alarms in the protection ring are detected in the protection ring is not in use.

16. – 17. (Canceled)

18.   (Currently Amended) A method for redirecting traffic in a SONET ring family comprising the steps of:

assigning a second protection SONET ring to a SONET ring family comprising a first protection SONET ring, the first protection SONET ring distinct from the second protection SONET ring and connected to a first optical transport system line, the second protection SONET ring connected to a second optical transport system line:

detecting a service alarm associated with a subset of rings of the SONET ring family;

~~and~~

directing traffic from a highest priority ring of said subset of rings to the second protection SONET ring~~-~~; and

~~The method according to claim 7, further comprising~~ determining whether the second protection SONET ring is in use.

19.   (Currently Amended) A method for redirecting traffic in a SONET ring family comprising the steps of:

assigning a second protection SONET ring to a SONET ring family comprising a first protection SONET ring, the first protection SONET ring distinct from the second protection

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2663
PATENT
Application # 09/473,953
Attorney Docket # 113523 (1014-086)

<u>SONET ring and connected to a first optical transport system line, the second protection</u>

<u>SONET ring connected to a second optical transport system line;</u>

      <u>detecting a service alarm associated with a subset of rings of the SONET ring family;</u>

~~and~~

      <u>directing traffic from a highest priority ring of said subset of rings to the second</u>

<u>protection SONET ring~~.~~;</u>

      · ~~The method according to claim 7, further comprising~~ marking second protection SONET

ring as in use.

      20. (Canceled)